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DIRECTOR

*Hqs' guidance for handling correspondence for the Lowenstein Moose briefings.

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REF: DIRECTOR 135226 *

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1. SOUTH OPERATIONS BRIEFING BY FOR LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE

CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. ENEMY INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES IN MR-III. DISCUSSED WERE THE NUMBER OF ENEMY UNITS WEST OF RTE 23 IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE (8-12 INFANTRY BATTALIONS); NUMBER OF ENEMY UNITS EAST OF RTE 23 IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE (75, INCLUDING FOUR NVA DIVISIONS WHICH SERVE A TWOFOLD ROLE OF DEFENDING THE TCHEPONE AREA, AS WELL AS POSING A THREAT TO THE TWO NORTHERN PROVINCES OF SVN).

B. RTE 23 WAS DISCUSSED AS A TACTICAL BOUNDARY FOR THE NVA. TO THE WEST THEIR FORCES ARE USED IN A SCREENING ROLE TO TIE DOWN AND HARASS RLG FORCES IN ORDER TO PREVENT ATTACKS UPON THEIR ROUTE STRUCTURES EAST OF THIS ROAD. HOWEVER, AS RLG FORCES CROSS RTE 23 THERE IS ENEMY REACTION.

C. THE TRIANGLE AREA M. PHINE/TCHEPONE/M. NONG WAS MENTIONED AS BEING THE HEART OF THE NVA SUPPLY SYSTEM IN SOUTH LAOS. THROUGH THIS AREA, ALL SUPPLIES FLOWING SOUTH PASS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

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S E C R E T

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D. THE SUBJECT OF FLOW OF ENEMY SUPPLIES TO SVN AND CAMBODIA WAS DISCUSSED WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE FOLLOWING ROUTES: RTE 110, 96/110, 96, 92, 99, 23, 9, 914, 15/12, AND 911.

E. THE SUBJECT OF EIGHT MANDATORY RW TARGETS IN SOUTH LAOS WAS MENTIONED, AND THE ROUTES ENNUMERATED.

F. IN MR-IV, THE BRIEFING OFFICER POINTED OUT THE CHOICES THE ENEMY HAD IN THE MOVEMENT OF HIS SUPPLIES DOWN RTE 23 TO CROSS RTE 233 AND UTILIZE RTE 99/96, TO CROSS RTE 16 AND USE THE SE KONG VALLEY, OR PROCEED ONTO THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU TO THE PAKSONG AREA AND WALK HIS SUPPLIES SOUTH OFF THE PLATEAU. TO USE THE SE KONG VALLEY, IT WAS POINTED OUT THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE TO ERADICATED OR NEUTRALIZE THE EASTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU. THIS HE HAS DONE SUCCESSFULLY SO FAR BY PUSHING RLG GUERRILLAS BACK TO THE BAN HOUAY KHONG (LS-56) AREA.

G. ENEMY FORCE DISPOSITION IN MR-IV WAS DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: THERE ARE 7-9 NVA INFANTRY UNITS IN THE LAO NGAM/ SARAVANE/ BOLOVZ NS PLATEAU/ SE KONG VALLEY AREA; THERE ARE SOME 33 BATTALIONS EAST OF THE SE KONG RIVER, MAINLY ENGINEER, TRANSPORTATION AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, IT WAS POINTED OUT ONLY ONE NVA UNIT LEFT THE LAO NGAM/ SARAVANE AREA DURING LAMSON 719.

H. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE GEOGRAPHIC

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PAGE 3 [REDACTED] S E C R E T

BOUNDARIES OF NVA CONTROL IN SOUTH LAOS, BASE ANSWERED THAT THE AREA EAST

OF A NORTH/SOUTH LINE DRAWN USING RTE 8, 23 TO THE 23/16 JUNCTION AREA, THEN EAST AND SOUTH AROUND THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU COULD BE DESCRIBED AS UNDER ENEMY CONTROL. FRIENDLY CONTROL WAS PRIMARILY CENTERED ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER WITH TWO PRIMARY SALIENTS: EAST ALONG RTE 9 IN MR-III TO DONG HENE/M. PHALANE AREA; THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN MR-IV. THE AREA IN BETWEEN THESE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS WAS DESCRIBED AS CONTESTED AREA. A GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THIS DIVISION OF CONTROL WAS PREPARED AND GIVEN TO THE VISITORS.

2. THERE WERE TWO PRIMARY AREAS OF DISCUSSION. THE FIRST WAS THE NUMBER OF BATTALIONS EAST OF RTE 23 IN MR-III BEFORE AND AFTER LAMSON 719. WHEN THE FACT OF 75 BATTALIONS WERE PRESENTED, MR. LOWENSTEIN ASKED WHAT WAS THERE BEFORE. THE BRIEFING OFFICER RESPONDED HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT THE POINT WOULD BE CLARIFIED IN THE ORDER OF BATTLE BRIEFING THAT AFTERNOON. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CLARIFY THE FIGURE OF 75 BY NOTING THE NUMBER OF INFANTRY, ENGINEER, TRANSPORTATION, COMMO-LIAISON AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT THAT FIGURE REPRESENTED. IT WAS POINTED OUT IF THERE WAS ANY INCREASE IT WAS PROBABLY IN THE NUMBER OF INFANTRY UNITS.

3. THE SECOND POINT OF DISCUSSION WAS MACSOG AND OPERATIONS IN

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25X1A THE PRAIRIE FIRE AREA. WHEN THE BRIEFING OFFICER MENTIONED THE
NUMBER OF ENEMY UNITS IN MR- IV EAST OF THE SE KONG RIVER, HE ALSO
MENTIONED THAT DUE TO LIMITED GROUND SOURCES THE MAJORITY OF
25X1 INFORMATION WAS [REDACTED]; THEREFORE THERE COULD POSSIBLY BE
MORE UNITS IN THE AREA. TO THIS POINT, MR. MOOSE ASKED ABOUT
INTELLIGENCE FROM THE PRAIRIE FIRE AREA OF OPERATIONS. THE DCOS
STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM THESE
OPERATIONS. MOOSE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY COORDINATION BETWEEN
MACSOG OPERATIONS AND OUR OPERATION IN THE AREA. THE DCOS REPLIED
IF WE WERE GOING TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA WE WOULD NOTIFY
THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE. HE SUGGESTED IF LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE WERE
GOING TO SAIGON THIS POINT COULD BE CLARIFIED THERE. THEY REPLIED
THEY WERE NOT.

4. MR. MOOSE DID ASK ABOUT TERRORIST ACTIVITY ALONG RTE 13 AND
THE ABILITY OF THE LAO PEOPLE TO UTILIZE THIS ROUTE. THE BRIEFING
OFFICER POINTED OUT IN MARCH THREE USAID TRUCKS WERE AMBUSHED
SOUTH OF THAKHEK WITH ONE, POSSIBLY TWO, DRIVERS BEING KILLED.
THE BRIEFING OFFICER ALSO POINTED OUT AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS
MADE ON THE BRIDGE OVER THE SE BANGHIANG RIVER AND RTE 13 IN
SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE. HE ALSO MENTIONED BG-313 SWEEPING ALONG

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PAGE 5 [REDACTED] S E C R E T

RTE 13 NORTH OF SAVANNAKHET. IF WAS FURTHER STATED THAT CONVOY PRACTICES WERE NOT NECESSARY ALONG THIS ROUTE.

25X1A 5. AS VIEWED [REDACTED] THE ONLY AMMUNITION REALLY GIVEN TO LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE WAS THE 75 BATTALION FIGURE FOR ENEMY FORCES EAST OF RTE 23. AS THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WAS AN INCREASE OF ENEMY FORCES IN REACTION TO LAMSON 719, AN INTERPRETATION COULD BE MADE THE ENEMY INCREASED HIS FORCES IN CONCERT WITH THE ALLIED ESCALATION REPRESENTED BY LAMSON 719. ATTEMPTED CLARIFY THIS ISSUE IN OB BRIEFING WHICH FOLLOWS. GP-1

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RYBAT [REDACTED]

REF: [REDACTED]

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1. THE FOLLOWING IS A RECAP OF [REDACTED] BRIEFING
PRESENTED TO MR. MOOSE ACCOMPANIED BY [REDACTED][REDACTED] AT THE PI OFFICE BETWEEN 1545
AND 1615 HOURS ON 1 MAY 1971.2. THE ENTIRE TIME WAS SPENT ATTENDING [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE BRIEFING
CONSISTED OF BASICALLY THE SAME FORMAT AND MATERIALS
AS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO STATION.3. MR. MOOSE APPEARED VERY ATTENTIVE THROUGHOUT
THE BRIEFING AND ASKED RELATIVELY FEW QUESTIONS. THE
FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS ASKED BY MR. MOOSE DURING THE
BRIEFING AND [REDACTED] RESPONSE.Q. HOW MANY KILOMETERS OF ROAD HAVE THE
CHINESE CONSTRUCTED?

A. APPROXIMATELY 300.

Q. HOW MANY AAA GUNS ALONG THE ROAD?

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A. IN FEBRUARY 1970 A TOTAL OF 391. THE LEVEL OF GUNS VARIES BETWEEN 350 AND 400 SINCE JANUARY 1970.

Q. AFTER COMPLETION OF A SECTION OF ROAD DO THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ALL MOVE OUT TO NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION CAMPS?

A. NO. MANY ACTIVE CAMPS REMAIN ALONG COMPLETED ROUTE SEGMENTS I.E. ROUTE 912 CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 30 ACTIVE FACILITIES RELATED TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND YET THIS ROAD WAS COMPLETED OVER ONE YEAR AGO.

Q. HOW MANY PHOTO MISSIONS OF THE ROAD DO YOU RECEIVE A MONTH?

A. IT VARIES, FROM TWO TO FIVE IS THE AVERAGE. EACH MISSION USUALLY GIVES US COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE ROAD NETWORK AND THE MORE FREQUENT THE MISSION, THE BETTER WE CAN ANALYZE ROAD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.

Q. ARE YOU ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN BARRACKS TYPE BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION CAMPS NEAR THE 8 SMALL ARMS FIRING RANGES?

A. YES, IN MOST CASES THESE AREAS ARE NEAR WEAPONS SITES - USUALLY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS - AND CONSTRUCTION

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RELATED EQUIPMENT IS NOT OBSERVED IN THESE AREAS.

Q. WHAT ARE THESE AREAS? (REFERRING TO SLASH AND BURN AREA ON A PHOTO OF ROUTE 412).

A. A NATIVE SLASH AND BURN AREA. EXAMPLES OF CHINESE CULTIVATION APPEAR ON OTHER PHOTOS AND WE WILL SHOW YOU EXAMPLES OF THE NATIVE AND CHINESE CULTIVATION ON ROUTE 46 PHOTOGRAPHY.

Q. HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY OR OCCUPANCY OF A CONSTRUCTION CAMP?

A. IN MANY CASES WE CAN OBSERVE PERSONNEL MOVING IN OR AROUND THE CAMPS. VEHICLES OR CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ARE USUALLY PARKED IN THE ACTIVE CAMPS.

Q. ARE THE ROADS SINGLE LANE THROUGHOUT?

A. NO, MOST OF THE ROAD NETWORK IS DUAL LANE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ROUTE 45 BETWEEN MUONG LA AND MUONG KHOUA. ROUTE 412 IS HARD SURFACE AS IS ROUTE 46 FROM MUONG SAI TO MUONG BENG.

4. MR MOOSE MADE EXTENSIVE NOTES THROUGHOUT THE BRIEFING ON THE CHINA ROAD. HE NEVER ASKED A QUESTION THAT CONCERNED ANY ASPECT OF THE [REDACTED] AERIAL RECON-

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NAISSANCE PROGRAM - POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF HIS HIGH INTEREST
IN THE CHINA ROAD. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT SENATOR
MANSFIELD HAD MADE SOMETHING OF A HOBBY OF WATCHING THE
PROGRESS OF THE CHINA ROAD FOR SOME TIME. [REDACTED]

REPLIED THAT THE ROAD HAD ALSO BEEN HIS HOBBY FOR THE PAST
TWO YEARS, AND MR. MOOSE RESPONDED^{DEP} THAT PERHAPS THEY

[REDACTED] AND SENATOR MANSFIELD/ SHOULD PERHAPS GET
TOGETHER SOMETIME.

5. MR. MOOSE WAS APPARENTLY VERY INTERESTED IN PHOTO
RECONNAISSANCE, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND
ANY OF THE BASIC PHOTO INTERPRETATION CONCEPTS OR
RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS. HE ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF
CONSECUTIVE FRAMES AND A SHORT EXPLANATION OF CAMERA
SYSTEMS, STEREO VISION, AND FLIGHT LINES WAS GIVEN, BUT
HE DID NOT APPEAR TO COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND. BELIEVE
THAT¹ HIS MAY HAVE BEEN HIS FIRST COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING
FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. WE HAD EXPECTED MORE QUESTIONS
AT THE END OF THE BRIEFING. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION
AND DEPARTED APPARENTLY SATISFIED. GP-1

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